

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets amend Figure 14. These replacement sheets, which include Figures 13 and 14, replace the previous sheet including Figures 13 and 14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 32, 36 and 40 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that claims 1-39 are allowed. Although these claims are amended to overcome objections made in the Office Action, it is submitted that the claims remain allowed.

In the Office Action a new title is required. In response, the title is amended to state "MEASUREMENT OF FRICTIONAL RESISTANCE OF PHOTOCONDUCTOR AGAINST BELT IN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, PROCESS CARTRIDGE, AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD."

The abstract is objected to. In response the abstract is amended in accordance with the Examiner's requirements. It is requested that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to because photographs 1 and 2 are unclear. In response, as shown in the attached replacement sheets, the photographs are increased in size as per the Examiner's request. It is therefore requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1-40 are objected to because of informalities. In response independent claims 1, 23 and 40 are amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions. Claims 13 and 32 are amended to recite "an upstream side," and claims 14, 18, 22 and 36 are amended to recite "or" in place of the previous recitations of "and," as appropriate, also in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. It is therefore requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 06-138685. It is requested that the rejection of the claim be withdrawn, and the claim allowed, for the following reasons.

Independent claim 40 is amended to recite a method of forming an image with an image forming apparatus. The method includes determining that a frictional resistance of a photoconductor against a belt is greater than 45 gram-force and less than 200 gram-force, and forming the image with the image forming apparatus in which the frictional resistance of the photoconductor against the belt is greater than 45 gram-force and less than 200 gram-force. Determining that the frictional resistance of the photoconductor against the belt is greater than 45 gram-force and less than 200 gram-force includes hanging a 100-gram load at one end of the belt so that a contact length thereof with the photoconductor is 3 mm and a contact area is 15 mm², connecting a force gauge to another end of the belt, reading a value from the force gauge when the belt moves, and subtracting the 100-gram load from the read value of the force gauge to determine the frictional resistance.

It is submitted that Japanese Publication No. 06-138685 does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of hanging a 100-gram load at one end of a belt so that a contact length thereof with a photoconductor is 3 mm and a contact area is 15 mm², connecting a force gauge to another end of the belt, reading a value from the force gauge when the belt moves, and subtracting the 100-gram load from the read value of the force gauge to determine a frictional resistance, as recited in independent claim 40.

It is therefore requested that the rejection of independent claim 40 be withdrawn, and that the independent claim be allowed.

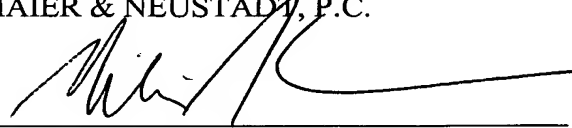
Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

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